

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BERLIN 09356 241345Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----010628 241347Z /47

O 241333Z DEC 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6341  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
USMISSION USBERLIN IMMEDIATE  
USMISSION USNATO  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER  
USELMLO SHAPE BELGIUM

S E C R E T BERLIN 09356

EXDIS

MILITARY ADDRESSES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3  
TAGS: PGOV, MILI, BQG, AKG  
SUBJECT: RUMORS OF GDR RESTRICTIONS ON ACCESS TO EAST  
BERLIN

REF: STATE 306481

1. EMBASSY BELIEVES IT ADVISABLE TO PRESENT EMBASSY  
AND/OR MISSION VEHICLES AT CHECKPOINTS ON DEC 31-JANUARY 1  
AFTER MIDNIGHT TO DETERMINE IF GDR IS MAKING ANY EFFORT  
TO RESTRICT PASSAGE. AS OF THIS WRITING WE DO NOT KNOW  
NEW YEAR'S EVE PLANS OF EMBASSY PERSONNEL WHO MIGHT BE  
INVOLVED IN SUCH EFFORTS, BUT WE THINK WE CAN FIND EMBASSY  
"REVELERS" WHO WOULD BE PREPARED TO USE "DIPLOMATIC  
FLASH" PROCEDURES AND AUSWEIS AT SEPARATE CROSSINGS AT  
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CHECKPOINTS. WHILE USE OF AUSWEIS IS NORMAL PRACTICE  
FOR US, SEPARATE TESTS WOULD DETERMINE WHETHER BOTH FORMS  
OF IDENTIFICATION REMAIN VALID.

2. IN FACT, WE HAD BEEN THINKING OF SENDING A VEHICLE  
FROM EAST TO WEST BERLIN AFTER MID-NIGHT DECEMBER 31-  
JANUARY 1M, WE ALSO BELIEVE IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO

TRANSIT NOT ONLY CHECKPOINT CHARLIE BUT PERHAPS ALSO THE BORNHOLMER CROSSING POINT, WHICH IS A NORMAL ONE FOR EMBASSY OFFICERS LIVING IN THE PANKOW AREA. IF DEPT AND USBER CONCUR, EMBASSY AND MISSION COULD COORDINATE LOCALLY SUCH CROSSINGS, WHICH MIGHT ALSO INVOLVE VEHICLES FROM ALLIED EMBASSIES IN EAST BERLIN IF DEPT THINKS THIS WOULD BE APPROPRIATE.

3. SHOULD IT BE DECIDED TO UNDERTAKE SUCH EFFORTS, WE THINK THOUGHT SHOULD BE GIVEN TO WHAT STATEMENTS, IF ANY, SHOULD BE MADE TO EAST GERMAN GUARDS, AND HOW LONG WE INSIST ON RIGHT TO TRANSIT CHECKPOINTS IN THE UNLIKELY EVENT THE EAST GERMANS INDICATE THEY ARE TRYING TO INSTITUTE NEW PROCEDURES. IF EAST GERMAN GUARDS CHALLENGE EITHER AUSWEIS OR DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT FLASH PROCEDURE, WE WOULD PROPOSE TO SAY ONLY THAT (EITHER) DOCUMENTATION IS VALID, HAS BEEN ACCEPTED AS SUCH BY APPROPRIATE PARTIES CONCERNED, AND WHO HAVE NOT AGREED TO ANY CHANGES IN SUCH DOCUMENTATION. THIS STATEMENT WOULD IMPLY, IN THE CASE OF THE DIPLOMATIC FLASH PROCEDURES, THAT THE EAST GERMANS HAVE NO ROLE, AND, IN THE CASE OF THE AUSWEIS, THAT THEY ARE SEEKING TO RENEGE ON ASSURANCES GIVEN THE ALLIES AT THE TIME OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS, WITHOUT CONCEDING THAT THE EAST GERMANS CAN CHANGE PROCEDURES UNILATERALLY. IN TERMS OF HOW LONG WE WOULD WAIT AT THE CHECKPOINTS  
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IN THE EVENT EITHER FORM OF DOCUMENTATION IS CHALLENGED, WE THINK 15-30 MINUTES SHOULD BE THE LONGEST TIME, AFTER WHICH EMBASSY PERSONNEL WOULD WITHDRAW AND REPORT RESULTS OF EFFORTS TO THE EMBASSY. PLEASE ADVISE.

4. CONCERNING PARA 6 OF USBER'S 3228, WHICH REFERS TO RUMOR OF ONLY ONE TIME CLOSING OF CHECKPOINT ON NEW YEAR'S EVE AND PRIOR GDR ANNOUNCEMENT TO THIS EFFECT, IT IS EMBASSY'S VIEW THAT WE SHOULD NOT LET SUCH AN ANNOUNCEMENT GO UNCHALLENGED. TO ACCEDE TO GDR "GUARANTEE" OF ONLY ONE TIME CLOSING MIGHT LEND EAST GERMANS TO THINK THAT THEY COULD IMPOSE FUTURE CLOSINGS, PERHAPS UNANNOUNCED, AT RANDOM TIMES OF THEIR OWN CHOOSING WITHOUT CHALLENGE FROM ALLIED SIDE. FROM EMBASSY'S STANDPOINT, WE THINK IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT EAST GERMANS REALIZE AND ACCEPT THAT EMBASSY PERSONNEL HAVE THE RIGHT TO TRANSIT CHECKPOINTS AT ANY TIME FOR OFFICIAL OR PERSONAL BUSINESS OR IN CASES OF HEALTH EMERGENCIES USING FLASH PROCEDURE OR AUSWEIS. BOLEN

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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